(d) if so, the extent to which delinking of Minimum support Price from procurement is going to help in reducing the foodgrains stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government. However, alternative methods of providing income support to the farmers are being examined so that the farmers get the Minimum Support Price for their crops.

Extending BIS net

1969. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIS has decided to bring several more consumer items to be covered under the net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that many consumer items which are compulsorily covered under the BIS net are openly available without any ISI mark;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments are also not implementing the guidelines on consumer items issued by the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the steps through which Government propose to ensure its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD); (a) and (b) Certification of Packaged Natural Mineral Water, Packaged Drinking Water and Clinical Thermometers has been recently made mandatory under the BIS Certification Scheme.

(c) and (d) BIS receives information through various sources about the availability of products in the market without bearing Standard Mark of BIS though they are covered under mandatory certification. In such cases, BIS informs the concerned implementing authority of the Central/State Government for taking necessary action. In cases where products bearing false Standard Mark of BIS are found, action is initiated under the BIS Act, 1986.

(e) and (f) BIS seeks the participation of the State Governments through the State Level Coordination Committee in implementation of the various Quality Control orders.

Surplus Sugar

1970. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been surplus availability of sugar in the country for the last five years if so, the details of the demand and supply;

(b) what is the rationale of continuing with monthly release mechanism; and

(c) whether this system is prevalent in other sugar producing countries also, and if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The position of total availability and internal consumption of sugar during the last 5 sugar seasons is as under:—

(qty. in lakh tonnes)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1. Total Availability	208.12	194.45	208.22	248.71	279.04
2. Internal Consumption	136.75	139.78	141.35	155.08	162.00